

The Philippines

June 6, 1945

My darling Mamma:

Your son sits in disheveled quarters by himself & pens his thoughts. We have moved from our newly built quarters so that we could crate up the timber and take it to our destination where we will set up again. By timber I mean the platforms over which our squad tent (16' by 32') is erected. Now our squad tent is on the ground which is very muddy. One never gets used to disorderly surroundings. However we usually have pretty neat quarters.

I have a bit of a headache tonight, but it is leaving me. I think it was caused by a long jeep ride I made yesterday – an all day ride with little to eat & with too much to smoke.

I received your letter telling about my sheeps. I think that is a darned good profit. Did Ed sell all of his sheep mama? & where will he buy more? When next you buy some for me, I don't think you should buy over fifty. I certainly thank you & Ed for handling them for me. I think I am darned fortunate in having some one make me a thousand dollars without any assistance from me. I was very glad to hear about the oats turning out so well. Gosh if we could get three more good years in succession, we should be in fair shape. I wish you would sort of break down. The financial set up of the farm for me. Amount owed, total value, anticipated profit, as that is money left after paying [illegible]. You tell me bits here an there, but I never get the complete story, and I think about it all time. You mentioned that my bank balance was \$2045 as of your letter of May 25th. Was that the amount on hand the first of May, if so I don't imagine my allotment for. The month of April was included in the balance. I was just trying to figure how much I would have by the end of the year that is amount in [illegible] salary for the rest of the year. As near as I can figure, on the basis of the last figures you sent me I shall have \$4750 (that in total worth \$4750) in the bank by January 1, 1945. Less Christmas presents (Less some cash monthly for you I am writing as miserly as [illegible])

I wish you knew some reliable person whom we might go in with on a beer joint. Well I am just pretty glad over the farm and our prospects mighty darned glad. I wish you and Ed and myself for that matter, were about. Two years younger, but I am all in all very thankful. Certainly, we shall face the past war era with better prospects than the average American.

Gosh I shall be glad when I can be at home & just be around the house. I believe I am more tired of being away right now than I've ever been, but then being around poor Prentice who is on his 39th month overseas, I feel that I haven't got a hell of a lot to kick about. He is 26 years old & and looks tired & soured out. He gets fearfully down in the dumps at times. He says a hundred times a day "God damn I wish I could get home." He never reads or writes letters. Writes his wife, whom he married shortly before he came over seas about once or twice as month. Poor devil, we have been going to the show with him & should play cards more with him. He is a great card player, but as you say, one with an interest in things, shouldn't be changed too much by the war, except combat troops who have been over two or three years. Our company, as far as combat is concerned, would have seen more of it on the Louisiana Maneuver. Lord, the war serves as remote to me as I imagine it does to you. The longer I stay over the less hankering I have to be where the shooting is going on. I don't believe we shall run into any dangerous spots. I believe that by the time we leave this island, China shall have been invaded, and as I

mentioned before, I am sure that we will land in China unopposed. Tonight's radio said that the Chinese have 7 points on the coast cleared of Japs like you, we have been puzzling over China's reincarnation. By October Japan will be blitzed from every angle. Hell I think they will surrender by the end of this year. The only opposition they will be able to offer in China will be isolated defenses in sea coast cities.

Everyone is still a seething cauldron isn't it? Mother, do you think a definite, fairly invariable peace plan will be [illegible] [illegible] US. England & Russia, or do you think that it will finally turn out to be a sham which will be supplanted by individual theatres, public & secret, among the different nations? Roosevelt's death shook my confidence in the whole deal. I wish England & the US were closer and had more confidence in each other.

Lou and I ate lunch on a Destroyer day before yesterday. The vessel captain drew some Ammo from us & invited us out. The compliment of officers, 26 were extremely friendly to us & showed us around the ship. My Lord (I'm "My Lording" lot tonight), but radio and radar & marching in guard plays a big part in this war. I certainly wouldn't care to be stationed aboard one.

The jeep trip I took was a 100 mile round trip over rough roads. [illegible] and I took two of our men up to take charge of our Ammo Dump formerly belonging to the unit of [illegible] Bay Associations coming back we bought a dozen avalanches 8 friers & some fresh tomatoes. The 50 mile trip back took us five hours as it rained & we got stuck several times & had to wait when a truck convoy got stuck. My arm was tired from waving at the Filipinos. They look [illegible] around from their shacks when they see a bunch of trucks stuck.

Did I tell you that I've seen lots of water buffalo or carabaos. I also saw a mosque, or rather the building which had formerly been one.

I had a hell of a nightmare night before last. The first I've had in a long time. A bunch of the men were loading a truck with Ammo about 50 yards from us & the noise must have started me off. I didn't get out of bed. I just yelled & cursed. The men got scared and hid behind the Ammo stacks. All in all, however, my nightmares have much improved over where they were this time last year.

I look forward to the place where we are moving (all the same island & as safe as this place). It is near where a large American concern has interests.

Well my good mama, I expect I'll close I think, from my figuring my money so closely, you'll be timid about using any of it I want you to draw on me for spending money mama. I haven't been able to get the hat for you yet. Lots of them have this particular type to seal, that it is always the one they are wearing.

Goodnight sweetest of persons. I certainly adore you & the reason I adore you is because you are the best person in the world.

Your loving son,

John M. Harrod